PERSONAL WATER USE SURVEY

Objective:

Students will examine:

- the different ways that they use water in the home,
- how much water is actually used for various activities, and
- recognize ways that they can cut down on water usage in their own home

Procedure:

- 1. Ask the students to name all of the ways they use water in a typical day. List them. Show the students a gallon jug of water and ask them to estimate how many gallons they use in a day.
- 2. Have the students write the list from the board. Tell them that over the next 24 hours they are to keep track of the ways they use water by noting them on the paper. Example, one student might flush the toilet 5 times, wash his hands 8 times, brush her teeth 3 times, etc.
- 3. The next day, show students the chart (found on page 13), but with the final area (Water Conserving Methods) covered. Tell them these are the average water uses in a home. Point out that if some of these seem high, it is because of the way we use water, i.e., letting the water get cold before we use it.
- 4. Have the students estimate the gallons they used in the 24-hour period.
- 5. Lead a discussion about the class's findings.
 - How much water did you estimate you personally used in the 24 hour period?
 - People in the US use 100-150 gallons of water per person per day. How does your use compare with this average?
 - Imagine you did not have plumbing in your house, that you had to carry water from a well. Would this change the amount of water you used? How do you think your water use would be different?
 - What simple, routine steps could you take to reduce the amount of water used in a day?
- 6. Uncover the Water Conserving Methods section and talk about the methods listed. How hard would it be to actually follow these methods?
- 7. Have students log their water use for another 24 hours, this time trying out as many water-saving methods as they can.
- 8. Ask students to calculate their water usage and compare the two days. Lead a discussion about the results:
 - How much did your water consumption change from the first 24-hour period?
 - What were the biggest reasons for the change?
 - For which tasks was it easier to save water?
 - For which tasks was it hard?
 - If you were only allowed 25 gallons of water per day, how would you use your 25 gallons? How would you cut back?
 - Choose three different water saving methods that you could use routinely. How much water would you save in a month if you were to use these three methods every day?

Questions for Discussion:

Where does our water come from?

What happens to water that goes down the drain?

Why is water important to people?

Why do you think we should be concerned about water?

What water saving ideas did you learn?

Responses to seek:

Not from the tap but where does the

water really come from

Concept of water treatment and

pollution

It is the source of all life and clean,

drinkable water is limited

Awareness of pollution and water

usage

Opportunities for taking personal

responsibility for saving water

For more information go to www.watershare.usbr.gov/

This activity is a modified Water Share activity by the Bureau of Reclamation

Personal Water Use Survey

DOMESTIC WATER	TIME SPENT	ESTIMATED	WATER
USE	USING	GALLONS OF	CONSERVING
652	WATER	WATER USED	METHOD
Keeping Clean	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	**************************************	WESTIGE
Washing hands and face		Tap running	Half-full bowl
		2-5 Gallons per minute	½ gallon
Showering		Water running	Five minutes with
		5 gallons per minute	low-flow head
			12 gallons total
Taking a bath		Full tub	Low level tub
		30-40 gallons total	15 gallons
Taking a sponge bath		5 gallons per minute	
Brushing teeth		Tap running	Wet brush, rinse
		5 gallons per minute	½ gallon
Preparing food			
Washing food		Waterrunning	Rinsing only
		5 gallons per minute	About 1 gallon
Cooking		Approximate your use	Approximate your use
Drinking			
Tap water		Running water	Pitcher in fridge
		⅓ gallon	1/16 gallon
Tea, coffee, cocoa		Running water	Pitcher in fridge
		½ gallon	1/16 gallon
Flushing the toilet		Regular flow	Lowflow
***		7 gallons	2 – 4.5 gallons
Washing clothes by hand		20-30 gallons	
Washing clothes by machine		20 11	
Low setting		20 gallons	
High setting		30 gallons	
Washing dishes By hand		Doggain a system	Consumer results and
By nand		Running water 30 gallons	Sponge wash and dishpan rinse
		30 ganons	5 gallons
In the dishwasher		Full cycle	Short cycle
		15 gallons	7 gallons
Cleaning the house		8 gallons	7 ganons
Washing the car	1	Water running	Bucket, sponge,
		10 gallons per minute	choke nozzle
			5 gallons total
Watering the lawn		In middle of day	In morning hours
_		10 gallons per minute, 30	10 gallons per
		minutes	minute, 10
			minutes
Watering plants		5-10 gallons	
Other uses		You estimate	